



Ohio Private Investigation & Security Services Commission (OPISSC) February 26, 2015, Minutes

Commission Meeting Date and Location: February 26, 2015, Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS), 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Commission Members Present: Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Mr. Jay Beighley, Mr. Dennis Deskins, Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Mr. Anthony Macisco, Mr. Ted Owens, Mr. John Pezzino, Mr. Joseph Montgomery for Mr. John Born, Mr. Brian Simms

Commission Members Absent: Mr. Ralph Portier, Mr. Christopher Pride, Mr. Mark Wasylyshyn

Also Attending: Aleta Dodson, Geoff Dutton, Christy Clark

Visitors Attending: Terry Myer

Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Armstrong	Here	Mr. Owens	Here
Mr. Beighley	Here	Mr. Pezzino	Here
Mr. Montgomery for Mr. Born	Here	Mr. Portier	
Mr. Deskins	Here	Mr. Pride	
Mr. Holcomb	Here	Mr. Simms	Here
Mr. Kirk		Mr. Mark Wasylyshyn	
Mr. Macisco	Here		

A quorum was present to conduct business.

There are no draft minutes to approve.

Newly appointed Class A member, Mr. John Pezzino, was introduced. Mr. Pezzino is from Waterville, Ohio, has been a Class A licensee for twenty years, and has a background of law enforcement.

OLD BUSINESS

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4749 Rewrite Update:

Andy Bowsher was unable to attend today's meeting because he was at the State House. Mr. Dutton reported that the rewrite did not end up making the budget bill. Andy Bowsher, Anne Vitale, and Geoff Dutton met with Senator LaRose on February 10th, and he was still interested in sponsoring the bill. Senator LaRose had some questions and wants to speak with constituents. Mr. Dutton emailed the Commission members' contact information to the Senator. Andy Bowsher is finding out how soon the legislation will be introduced and if it will be introduced to both the Senate and the House. Senator LaRose serves on two committees (no one could remember which committees) and spoke of recruiting co-sponsors from potentially both houses. If all goes smoothly, it is possible the legislation could be voted on and approved at the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Montgomery added that the rewrite has already been sent to the Legislative Service Commission and put into bill form.

OPISSC Committees:

Mr. Armstrong explained to new members that previously there were three OPISSC committees – Portability, Legislative, and Training. Portability and Legislative are no longer needed, but the Training Committee will need to start meeting and requested a March meeting be scheduled.

In prior meetings, several vendors had demonstrated their online training programs, which were fairly expensive. The State proposed that a training program could be developed at Public Safety, with the Commission's assistance, at a lower cost. There were several issues and members leaving, so the Committee hasn't met in long time. The two goals for this year are 1) develop the curriculum and 2) establish the delivery mechanism, whether through a private agency or through the state. It will require keeping on task, but with new members with valuable expertise, the process should move along.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Owens has three proposals for future 4749 review.

1. Add a Class D license for anyone who operates a business of process serving. The Class A licensee would be able to conduct private investigation, security and process serving services.
2. Add felony enhancement for anyone who assaults a private investigator or security officer while working under 4749. Other industries such as law enforcement and education have felony enhancement if assaulted, and our employees need protected.
3. Implement a statewide drug and alcohol testing database program so if a registrant tests positive for drugs, all companies the registrant works for will be notified. It could possibly be implemented similar to what the Ohio Highway Patrol has in place.

Mr. Armstrong agreed these are valid ideas, but would like the Legislative Committee to review them first. Mr. Holcomb added that more ideas will come forth in the coming year for future legislation, but suggested getting the current ORC rewrite through.

STAFF REPORTS

Enforcement Unit: Christy Clark provided an annual comparison of the Enforcement Unit compliance report. She clarified that the three companies that had their license suspended were security companies and it was due to civil penalties. Mr. Holcomb noticed the criminal charges had jumped significantly from 2013 to 2014. Ms. Clark said they are finding more unlicensed activity. Mr. Dutton added that PISGS investigators are unarmed and are working with the Ohio Investigative Unit which enforces liquor violations at bars, and they are armed. The investigators also have similar partnerships with local law enforcement to support their safety. Mr. Holcomb complimented on the increase of compliance checks and the great work being done. Mr. Dutton added that while the compliance checks have increased, the violations have decreased which is good.

Licensing and Registration Unit: Aleta Dodson reported the deadline for license renewal is March first and approximately 67% have been received.

Mr. Dutton informed the Commission that the Qualifying Agent examination had been reviewed, the language of the questions was clarified to reduce confusion, and an emphasis put on public safety topics to be a more meaningful, substantial exam.

The Active Shooter training at the Polaris Mall was a success with the help of Glimcher, Columbus Police, and Franklin and Delaware County EMA and sheriffs' departments. The information will be used as a template for future training exercises for others to use. Mr. Deskins said the Polaris Fashion Place and W.P. Glimcher were extremely pleased with the exercise; it exceeded their expectations and was very timely given recent threats to the Mall of America. John Born has done a great job forming private and public partnerships. Mr. Montgomery pointed out, as an observer of the exercise, that going forward, everyone will be better prepared and many small issues that can impact safety were recognized. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security hired a consultant and paid all expenses for the exercise.

Regarding the online system, Mr. Dutton reported they have made great strides, but also had some major transaction issues unfortunately involving Mr. Armstrong's company, Securitas. With the patience and help of April Poynter, the bugs in the system are close to being worked out. Please notify PISGS immediately if you have any issues so they can quickly be addressed.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

ACTION: Motion to nominate Rodney Armstrong as Chair. Holcomb first. Simms second. None opposed. Motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to nominate Dwight Holcomb as Vice Chair. Armstrong first. Simms second. None opposed. Motion passed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Terry Myer has an issue with terminating a person online. The person was terminated and off the roster one month, but was back on it the next month. PISGS will look into this incident.

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. Holcomb first. Owens second. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.